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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *March* the 28th, 1754.

Campeſtres melius Scythæ
Quorum plauſtra vagas rité trahunt domos. HOR.

THAT EXPERIENCE is the beſt, and ſhould be the only guide of our conduct, is ſo trite a maxim, that one can hardly offer it without an apology: and yet we find the love of innovation, and the vanity of invention carrying men daily to a total neglect of it. In a country where mode and faſhion govern every thing, we muſt not be ſurpriſed that men are ruled by no fixed principles, but rather ſhould expect they will frequently act in direct oppoſition to every thing that has been long eſtabliſhed

eſtabliſhed. The favourite axiom of the preſent times, is, that our anceſtors were barbarous; therefore whatever differs from the ignorance of their manners muſt be wiſe and right.

To ſhew the folly of an overweening opinion of inventive wiſdom, and to bring the foregoing remarks to the purpoſe and ſubject of this day's paper, I ſhall give an inſtance from Garcillaſſo de la Vega, who tells us that when the Spaniards began to ſettle in Peru, and were erecting large ſtone buildings, the Indians ſtood by and laughed at them, ſaying that they were raiſing their own tombs, which would, on the firſt heaving of the earth, fall and cruſh them. Yet big with their European improving genius, they deſpiſed the light cabins of the Americans, and at length became the victims of their own opinionated pride. Equally ridiculous would be the Peruvian in England, who, diſregarding the old eſtabliſhed models of ſtrength and ſolidity, ſhould build himſelf a hut after the faſhion of his own country, and adapted only to the temperature of that climate.

As I would willingly pay my countrymen the compliment of ſuppoſing all their actions to be founded in reaſon, when I cannot demonſtrate the contrary, I have imputed the number of ſlight wooden edifices with which we ſee our parks and gardens ſo crowded, to the extravagant fears with which it may be remembered the inhabitants of more ſolid ſtructures were ſeized at the time of the late expected earthquake. If ſuch a time of univerſal pannic ſhould again occur, I doubt not but the builders of theſe aſylums, who had mercenary views, would ſee good intereſt for their money, while the generous and benevolent would enjoy the greateſt of pleaſures, that of making numbers eaſy and happy. But even in this caſe, how have they acted againſt EXPERIENCE! For as a ſtorm of wind is a much more uſual phenomenon in this climate than an earthquake, it is evident that the expence of erecting theſe occaſional receptacles (though not indeed very conſiderable) muſt be totally thrown away; unleſs we are to believe thoſe refiners in political arithmetic, who aſſert that theſe retreats have contributed as much to the ſervice of the public in the ENCREASE of it's inhabitants, as they could have done in the PRESERVATION of them, according to their original inſtitution.

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THE ſame ſpirit which influences men to deſpiſe and neglect ancient wiſdom, leads them to a haſty and precipitate imitation of novelty. Thus many, ignorant of the original deſign of theſe ſlight ſhelters, and not imagining there could poſſibly be any uſe in them, concluded that they muſt imply ornament and beauty; and recollecting the proverb, that "every thing that is little is pretty," dotted their parks with ſections of HOGSHEADS. The firſt I ſaw of theſe gave me a high opinion of the modeſty of it's owner. A wiſe man of Greece, thought I to myſelf, was immortalized for his ſelf-denial and humility in occupying the whole of that manſion, of which my wiſer countryman is contented with the half. But upon looking round me, and ſeeing this new old whim propagated all over his park, and theſe philoſophical domicils ſo numerous as to make a town big enough to hold all the wiſe men upon earth, I ſoon changed my opinion of the founder, and concluded him rather to be poſſeſſed with the ambitious madneſs of an Alexander, who coveted MORE WORLDS, than with the moderation of the Cynic, who, as Hudibras obſerves, expreſſed no manner of ſolicitude about a PLURALITY OF TUBS.

The whole world was not half ſo wide
To Alexander, when he cry'd,
Becauſe he had but one to ſubdue,
As was a narrow paultry tub to
Diogenes: who is not ſaid
(For ought that ever I could read)
To whine, put finger i'th' eye and ſob,
Becauſe h' had ne'er another tub.

THE ſituations uſually deſtined for theſe monuments of taſte, are not in covered vallies, emboſomed in groves, or in ſome ſheltered dell; (there indeed we have the modeſty to place our wood-piles, bone-ſtacks, cinder-heaps and other more heavy fabrics, compoſed of rubbiſh, oyſter-ſhells, and ſometimes more glittering worthleſſneſs, under the enobling titles of grotto's, hermitages,

ges, &c. &c.) to make them conſpicuous, they are placed on eminences in the bleakeſt expoſures; inſomuch that I have over-heard an aſſembly of modern improvers condoling with ane another at a drum on a windy night, like a company of merchants at Jamaica, who had a rich fleet in the harbour at the time of a hurricane.

THE moveable houſes of the Scythians, deſcribed in my motto, are worthy our admiration. We muſt acknowledge them to be the perfection of all works, ſince they will ſtand the criticiſm of Momus himſelf; having that requiſite, for the want of which he condemned all other houſes: they are upon wheels and can move from bad neighbours, or be conveyed to ſhelter from the fury of the winds or the ſcorching of the ſun. What a ſatisfaction muſt it be to a man of fortune to be told that ſuch houſes are the manufacture of this age and country; and that he may be ſupplied with a very compleat one at the common and moderate price of three hundred pounds! It is to be preſumed that no gentleman, whom this intelligence may reach, will hereafter litter his park with huts, tubs, cribs, ſentry-boxes &c.

THE taſte of the preſent age is univerſally for annuals. Their politics, books, plantations, and now their buildings, muſt be all annuals: and it is to be apprehended, that in a few years, large trees and ſubſtantial ſtructures will be no where to be found, except in our DESSERTS: unleſs we could be as ſanguine in our expectations as a certain ſchemiſt, of whom I ſhall relate ſome particulars.

THIS gentleman whoſe Chineſe temple had been blown down a few weeks after it was erected, was comforting himſelf that he had found in Hanway's travels, a model never yet executed in this part of the world, which, from the advantage of it's form, muſt ſtand againſt the moſt violent guſts of wind on the higheſt mountains. This was, it ſeems, a *pyramid of heads*, after a genuine plan of that great improver Kouli Khan. He immediately contracted with the ſexton of his pariſh for a ſufficient ſupply of human ſculls, and was preparing the

the other materials, when the ſcheme was prevented by the over-ſcrupulous conſcience of the ſexton's wife. The ſchemiſt was extremely mortified, yet remained pertinacious in the execution of his deſign, and, as I am told, ſet out the next morning for Cornwall to obtain a ſeat in parliament, in order to bring in a bill for the erecting a pyramid in every county, with niches for the reception of the heads of all criminals hereafter to be executed. He is in no pain for the ſucceſs of his motion; for though the legiſlature has found objections to every ſcheme for making malefactors of USE, he doubts not their ready concurrence in a propoſal for making them an ORNAMENT to their country.

IN former times the GREAT HOUSE was the object to which the ſtrangers admiration was particularly invited. For this purpoſe lines of trees were planted to direct, and walls built to confine your approach, in ſuch a manner that the eye muſt be conſtantly employed in the contemplation of the principal front. Now it is thought neceſſary to *change all this*; you are therefore led by round about ſerpentine walks, and find your progreſs to be often intercepted by inviſible and unexpected lines and entrenchments, and the manſion purpoſely obſcured by new plantations, while the nobleſt trees of the old groves are tumbled down to give you a peep, every now and then, at an out-building of about ten feet ſquare of plaiſter and canvas. So different from this was the practice of our anceſtors, that whenever they erected ſuch little edifices (which they did only from neceſſity) they conſtantly planted before them yews, lawrels, or aquatics, according as the ſoil was moiſt or dry: and I could venture to promiſe any modern improver who delights in laying all things open, that he might in one morning fall down the populous part of the thames, and with his ſingle hatchet among the willows, lay open as many maſked edifices of the true modern ſize and figure, as, properly diſpoſed and fancifully variegated with freſh paint, might make Hounſlow-heath a rival to many an admired garden of this age.

A PHILOSOPHER would not ſuppoſe that the maſter of the place aſſumed any merit to himſelf from ſuch trifles; he would hardly imagine that even the moſt elegant

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of palaces could add any degree of worth to the poſſeſſor, whoſe character muſt be raiſed and ſuſtained by his own dignity, wiſdom and hoſpitality; remembring the maxim of Tully, " *Non domo dominus, ſed domino domus* " *honeſtanda eſt.*" But to judge with the common obſerver, and to reaſon with the general race of Improvers, if it be abſolutely neceſſary for every man to ſhew his taſte in theſe matters, let him endeavour to compaſs ſolidity, duration, and convenience in the manſion he inhabits; and not attempt to diſplay his magnificence in a number of edifices, which, whatever they may ſeem to imitate, are UNNECESSARY-HOUSES.

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